

1997

Labor Market Information

On

On the Indian Labor Force

A National Report

Purpose of the Report

This report provides the 1997 estimates of tribal service populations and labor market information for the nation's 554 tribes, as determined by representatives of each tribe and as certified as accurate by their tribal leader or designate.

Authority

Under Public Law 102-477, the Secretary of the Interior is granted the authority to publish a report on the population eligible for services which the Secretary provides to Indian people.

Coverage

Each tribe¹, using a survey form, collected data and provided estimates on their enrolled members and members from other tribes who lived on-or-near the reservation and who were eligible to use the tribe's BIA funded services. The aggregated total of those eligible to use the services constituted the tribe's Indian Resident Service Population. Excluded from each tribe's Resident Service Population total and other report totals were members who were in 1997, for example, serving in the Armed Forces or attending postsecondary institutions.²

¹ In the Tribal /Area section of this report, the Navajo Nation is listed by BIA Agency. Alaska Native entities are listed individually or grouped by consortium.

² Members were excluded from their tribe's service population if the member had relocated for purposes of direct employment or was incarcerated or confined long-term to a treatment facility.

General Definitions (from 25 CFR § 20.1)

Indian. *Indian* means any person who is a member, or a one-fourth degree or more blood quantum descendant of a member of any tribe.³

Resident Indian. *Resident Indian* means Indians living on Federal reservations or nearby who are considered part of the tribe's service population. (Definition extrapolated from 25 CFR § 20.1.)

Indian Tribes. *Indian Tribes* are tribes, bands, nations, rancherias, pueblos, colonies, communities, and Alaska Native groups recognized as eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and listed in the current list of tribal entities, pursuant to Section 104 of the Act of November 2, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792).

Near Reservation. *Near Reservation* means those areas or communities adjacent or contiguous to reservation, which are designated by the Commissioner upon recommendation of the local Bureau Superintendent. The recommendation shall be based upon consultation with the tribal governing body of those reservations on the basis of such general criteria. The criteria are:

1. Number of Indian people native to the reservation residing in the area,
2. A written designation by the tribal governing body that members of their tribe and family members who are Indian residing in the area, are socially, culturally, and economically affiliated with the tribe and reservation,
3. Geographic proximity of the area to the reservation, and
4. Administrative feasibility of providing an adequate level of services.⁴

Headings/Terms Used in Tables

Tribal Enrollment. *Tribal Enrollment* means the total number of tribal enrollees who are certified as being tribal members by their tribe's leader or designate. Pursuant to tribal constitutions, tribal enrollees may live on the reservation or anywhere outside the reservation—for example, in distant towns/cities or in foreign countries.

Total Indian Resident Service Population. The *Resident Service Population* total, as shown in the tables of this report, was the tribe's estimate of all American Indians and Alaska Natives, members and non-members, who were living on-or-near the tribe's reservation during the 1997 calendar year and who were eligible to use BIA funded services. The aggregated sum of Age Under 16, Age 16-64, and Age 65 & Over sub-totals of a given tribe equals the tribe's Total Indian Resident Service Population total. Typically, Indians included in a tribe's Resident Service Population live within a reasonable distance of the reservation from where they can access the tribe's services. Such Indians typically do not live in distant cities, towns or foreign countries.

³ Some tribes have constitutions that allow their members to have a blood quantum less than one-fourth.

⁴ For the purposes of this report, On Reservation is defined as those Indian who live within the present reservation boundaries and who are eligible for BIA funded services. For Alaska the term near reservation includes the entire state, since Alaska Native tribes are typically isolated from each other and are not formed as reservations.

Not Available for Work. This total estimated the number of individuals who were over the age of 16 and who were included in a tribe's service population, but, because of personal circumstances were not able to assume or sustain gainful employment.

Available for Work. This total represented a tribe's 1997 Total Work Force. The Available for Work total is the sum of Age 16-64 and Age 64 & Over sub-totals minus service population individuals who are Not Available for Work.

Number Employed. The Number Employed total was determined by aggregating a tribe's estimated subtotals of their service population individuals who were either employed by public or private entities.

Number Not Employed. Subtracting the Number Employed from a tribe's service population who were Available for Work, provided the 1997 total of a tribe's work force that was not employed.

Unemployed as a % of the Labor Force. This percentage was determined by dividing the Number Not Employed by the Total Work Force (also called Available for Work total).

Employed, but Below Poverty Guidelines. Each tribe, using HHS's Poverty Guidelines (applicable for 1997), estimated the number of their employed work force who were below the poverty guideline for example, for a family unit of two the poverty threshold of combined earned income was \$10,850 and for four the threshold was \$13,650. Additionally, the tables show the percentage of employed below the Poverty Guidelines. This percentage was derived by dividing the tribe's estimated total Employed, but below the Poverty Guidelines by the tribe's Total employed.

Table Format

Tribal labor market data is organized in this report into three sections by:

1. Area/National Totals, 2. State/National Totals, and 3. Tribal/Area Totals.

For tribes with reservation boundaries and service populations in more than one state, the tribe's labor market totals are proportionately distributed, by tribal population, for each state. Also note that an asterisk * following a tribe's name in the Tribal/Area section indicates that the reported totals were from the 1995 report. Similarly, any total highlighted in blue indicates that that total was from the 1995 report.

Summary: 1997 Indian Labor Market Information

For 1997, the nation's Indian service population or potential labor force was 1,442,474, which was an increase of 182,541 (14%) over the national total in 1995.

Half of the work force in Indian Country remained unemployed -- 50 percent in 1997, as compared to 49 percent in 1995.

Of the 378,853 adult Indians who were employed in 1997, 30 percent (113,904) were still living below poverty guidelines established by Health and Human Services (HHS).

Tribally certified enrollment increased by 226,163 (16%) members nationally from 1,428,270 in 1995 to 1,654,433 in 1997.

Additional Information

Any questions regarding a specific tribe's labor market information can be directed to the tribe's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Agency or Area Office. A current BIA Area and Agency

directory is available at www.doi.gov/bia/areas/tribal.html on the Internet. This report can be found on the Department of the Interior (DOI) web site.